***Software Development Plan***

***Introduction***

This provides an insight into the purpose behind chalking out the software development plan.

***Software Project Description***

This summarizes every aspect of the project that is undertaken by the software development plan. It usually lists out principal business needs, the software requirements specification (SRS), user interface requirements etc etc.

***Quality Plan***

This section looks at quality assurance and test planning aspects of the software development including project quality management. So in a way, it will check whether the product is performing the way it ought to, so as to meet consumer expectations off it.

***Test Plan***

The test plan is mostly prepared during the project implementation phase and will cover the various stages of software testing. It relates to the overall test policy and inherent objectives, test case generation, a complete listing of the scope of the testing action and rules for acceptance of software.

***Documentation Plan***

This is often forgotten in the process of software development. The reason being that developers like coding but had documenting what they have done. Hence it is vital to ensure that this part of the software development plan is not brushed under the carpet and forgotten!

***Deliverables***

This includes a list of project deliverables that are to accompany the software.

***Project Assumptions***

This lists out the assumptions that need to be made at the start of any project. This is vital so that other teams have a good understanding of the criteria you are basing your development on.

***Potential Risks***

This section highlights the risks that could be involved in undertaking the project. This is very important because knowledge of risk-factors would enable the managers to take appropriate timely steps to mitigate them.

***Beta Test Plan***

This section details the objectives, scope, policies, responsibilities and related criteria for the beta test plan in detail.

***Problems That Emerge In Software Development Planning***

No plan is ever problem free (unless it’s extremely simply!) and the following issues tend to hinder effective planning:

Lack of time and resources which often hinders timely execution of the project quality plan.

Absence of documentation in quality review tasks.

Not paying enough attention to fully resolving the errors that are discovered.

Leaving the errors unresolved which then causes future errors which are much harder to resolve.

Inadequate time and budget for beta test review.

Non-inclusion of GUI (Graphical User Interface) in quality review tasks.